Government's announcement regarding exports of agro-based food products

675. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of proposals for the food processing sector have been received after the Government's special announcement giving emphasis on the exports of agro-based food products was made; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the action taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) and (b) Since the liberalisation of the Industrial Policy, entrepreneurs are required only to file an Industrial Entrepreneurs Memorandum with Ministry of Industry for setting up most Food Processing Industries. Till October, 1993, 2,369 IEM have been filed envisaging an investment of about Rs. 28,570 crores. Besides, Government have also accorded approvals to Investment proposal of over Rs. 5,000 crores for setting up export-oriented units, joint ventures, units requiring licence, units with foreign collaboration and Plan assisted projects in the Food Processing Sector.

Setting up of Food Processing Training Centres in Rural Areas

676. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise number of Food Processing Traning Centres set up so far and proposed to be set up in rural areas during each year of the Eighth Five Year Plan period; and

(b) the criteria laid down for selection of locations for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) and (b) Government have formulated a scheme for assisting setting up of Food Processing and Training Centres (FPTCs) in rural areas during the Eighth Plan period. 50 Food Processing and Training Centres in rural areas each year during the Eighth Plan period are proposed to be assested. During the 1992-93, the first year of the Eighth Plan, assistance has been provided for setting up of 8 FPTCs, in West Bengal, 2 in Haryana, 1 in Himachal Pradesh, 6 in Mizoram, 18 in Uttar Pradesh, and 3 FPTCs in Bihar. In the current financial year 1993-94, assistance has been provided for setting up of 3 FPTCs in Karnataka, 1 in Tamil Nadu and 1 FPTC in Uttar Pradesh. No criteria has been laid down by this Ministry for selection of locations for setting up of FPTCs since this has been left to the State Government concerned.

Corruption in Modern Food Industries (India) Ltd.

677. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the alleged irregularities and corruption in Modern Food Industries (India) Limited; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the action taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) and (b) Government deals with personnel at the Board Level only in respect of Modern Food Industries (India) Ltd. which is under its administrative control. No substantiated reports of corruption and alleged irregularities have been received in respect of Board Level officers in the last three years. Hence, no action has been taken against any such officer.

Incentives to deep sea fishing sector

678. SHRI V. RAJAN CHELLAPPA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state: